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TO: Supreme Court Clerk
P. O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Court Rule No. 2003-47

It is my understanding that the asbestos industry and certain Michigan manufacturers have petitioned the Michigan Supreme Court to change the rule of law which allows individuals with asbestos lung disease to seek and recover damages from the manufacturers and employers who allowed their workers to work in asbestos. As a life-long citizen and taxpayer in Michigan and a victim of asbestos exposure, I am very much opposed to this change in the law and hope the Court will see that working people in our state should not lose this right to a trial by jury. Furthermore, the Constitution makes it clear that judges are to interpret the law rather than make or change the law so why even take any steps that would eventually change the law?

When people are harmed by corporate misconduct, such as not disclosing the potential health hazards of working with asbestos, the right to a jury trial should be protected. It seems that Michigan and the Michigan Supreme Court are being used as tools of the asbestos industry and big business to deny working people their constitutional rights. Please don't let corporate dollars and power take away citizens' rights to be heard by a jury and keep in mind the real people with families who are affected.

The real crisis in our state is the failure of corporations to take responsibility for their bad actions and the willingness of big business and certain judges to blame the victims of corporate misconduct instead of holding the corporations accountable. The true fact of asbestos litigation is that all but one case has settled before trial in the last four years. Changing this law will not ease the burden on the courts since hardly any cases get that far anyway and I hope the Supreme Court will take this into account.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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